

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: 651-602-7900 Fax: 651-602-7914

To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail

January 12, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – GSWC FUNDS

Purpose. To provide the process for use of Ground and Surface Water EQIP funds in 2005.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005

This bulletin transmits the 2005 MN process for approving Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) EQIP funds. MN received \$202,890 of GSWC funds for 2005. The purpose of these funds is to promote ground and surface water conservation by providing cost-share and incentive payments to improve irrigation systems, enhance irrigation efficiencies, convert to less water-intensive agriculture, improve water storage through groundwater recharge, mitigate drought effects, or other water conservation methods.

A participant receives GSWC funds only if the assistance facilitates a net savings in water resources for the producer. Participants must meet the requirement of the land being irrigated two out of the last five years.

Because of the limited funding, MN will set a highest priority threshold for those applications implementing Practice Standard 442-Irrigation System, Sprinkler. Ranking for GSWC applications is done separately from regular EQIP rankings. GSWC applications compete on a state-wide basis for approval and funding. Offices may decide whether an application will compete for state-wide GSWC funds or for regular local EQIP funds.

To submit an application for GSWC funding:

- Offices enter applications of Practice Standard 442 with Practice Standard 449-Irrigation Water Management as separate applications into Protracts.
- Attach these applications to Fund Code EQIP GSWC FA, 78F.
- Enter the base score from the scoring worksheet (Factors A-J, without the local weighting) in the Protracts application block. For these applications the minimum base application score of 7 points will not apply.

On Monday, January 31 the State Office will pull all of the GSWC applications from Protracts. The State Office will respond to the field on which applications will receive funding from the GSWC by Tuesday February 1.

Those applications not funded through the GSWC fund would be eligible for regular EQIP funding. The application should be edited to change the fund code and then scored and ranked with all the other regular applications that were on hand as of January 28, 2005.

It is anticipated that all the GSWC funds will be expended by the first cut-off and that separating applications and GSWC fund code will not be used for the second or third scoring.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC(FO) or from the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC
FO
ARC
ENG(A)
EQIP State Office Team